

SERVING SOUTHEASTERN OHIO & NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA'S OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

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2017 SOOGA SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**SOOGA Board of Trustees Elections** The Board of Trustees elections were held at our Annual Spring Membership Meeting on April 20th, 2017. SOOGA members were mailed a ballot to vote by mail or during the Spring meeting. The votes were counted and the results announced at the closing of the meeting. The new board members will serve a 3 year term beginning May 2017 thorough May 2020. The newly elected SOOGA Board of Trustees are Barry Bowers with Huffman-Bowers, Henry (Winnie) Sinnett with Buckeye Oil Producing Company and Kevin Rothenbuhler with PDC Energy. Congratulations and welcome aboard!



**The 2017 SOOGA Awards** The annual SOOGA Awards were presented at the Spring Membership Meeting and were given to the following members: Hall of Fame Award—Hal Payne with Ken Miller Supply, Lifetime Achievement Award—Butch Deer with BD Oil Gathering, Work Horse—Melinda Johnson with J.F. Deem Oil and Gas, LLC. and the Past President Award—Steve Sigler with Buckeye Oil Producing Co. and Jim Javins with Mid-Atlantic Energy. Congratulations!



**2017 Paul Fulton Scholarship Winners** The Marietta College students participating this year were awarded: First place - *Waterflood Analysis of the Cow Run Formation in Washington Co.* by Adam Freeman and Adam Lang, Second Place (Tie) - *Economical Shallow Horizontal Drilling in Southeastern Ohio* by Jenny Starkey and Jon Hinson, and *Evaluating Engineered Stage Design in the Appalachian Basin* by Westyn Bennington; and Third place - *Reducing Water Cut and Related Costs* by Aaron Dillon and Aaron Smith. The papers will be available to all members on the SOOGA website.

## THE CROW'S NEST

On April 20th, SOOGA conducted another successful Spring Membership meeting. In attendance were over 130 members and there were information tables from OOGEEP, Marietta College, and a booth from the Oil and Gas Museum. The meeting featured many excellent speakers who provided updates on a variety of topics that impact our industry and a copy of many of the presentations can be found on SOOGA.org. The continued success of this meeting is only possible through the hard work of our Board of Trustees and the Events committee. I also want to thank Billie Leister for her excellent work in organizing the meeting this year.



The meeting featured a West Virginia legislative update from Charlie Burd of IOGA of WV as well as Delegate Bill Anderson. The tank act was the hot topic of the update but many other areas were covered as well. An update on Ohio issues was provided by Shawn Bennett of OOGA as well as Representative Andy Thompson and Senator Frank Hoagland. Industry issues identified within the state budget process, as well as proposed modifications to the idle and orphan well program were primary topics. Finally, United States Congressman Bill Johnson provided the update from the federal level. There are many positive signs that range from the Trump executive order on domestic energy to the new leadership at the EPA.

There were several presentations that focused on the industry's perception and the positive aspects that benefit our communities. Highlights from the talks included a presentation on the Shale Crescent effort and an overview of the new SOOGA weekly radio program called "Energy Insights" (every Saturday morning at 9am on AM1490 WMOA, or on their website in the podcast section). Additionally, the annual updates from OOGEEP and Energy in Depth Ohio provided facts and examples of actual benefits as a result of the oil and gas industry.

The more technical presentations came from several presenters and began with Dan Corcoran of Theisen Brock who provided a legal update of cases within the industry. An overview of midstream projects and the impacts on gas prices came from Jim Crews of Mark West Energy Partners while a snapshot of Appalachian drilling activity and results were provided by Tim Knobloch of JKPC.

I want to acknowledge the award recipients for this year. The SOOGA Hall of Fame award was presented to Hal Payne of Miller supply. Hal is a well known figure who has been in the industry for more than 30 years. The SOOGA Workhorse award was earned by Melinda Johnson for her dedication and hard work at every SOOGA event. Wildcatter (lifetime achievement) was awarded to Butch Deer and Past Presidents awarded to Jim Javins and Steve Sigler'. Paul Fulton scholarship winners presented the results of their research topic titled: "Waterflood Analysis of the 1st Cow Run Formation".

This meeting is not possible without the sponsors and I would like to extend a big "Thank You!" to all our sponsors this year. Because of the generous sponsorships, SOOGA is able to provide a high quality meeting at no cost to our members. SOOGA takes great pride in, and works very hard to provide, the most value for its members and I think this year's meeting was another big success. Please provide our team any feedback or suggestions of topics you would like to see at future meetings.

Next month we have the Spring Golf outing coming up on May 26th at Oxbow Golf Course. Please sign-up early as space for this event is limited. Also, in June we have the popular Clay Shoot scheduled June 16th. I look forward to seeing many of you at both of these events.

President,  
Christy Chavez

**2017 NEW MEMBERS**  
**SOOGA would like to welcome the following new members:**

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**Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association  
Gas Committee Report  
April, 2017**

PRICING**Prices April 11, 2017**

NYMEX Settle – April -2017	\$3.175
One Year NYMEX strip (May, 2017 – Apr., 2018)	\$3.334
Summer NYMEX strip for 2017 (May-October)	\$3.268
Winter NYMEX strip – 2017 (Nov., 2017 – Mar. 2018)	\$3.500
TCO Index Posting – April, 2017	\$2.99
DTI Index Posting – April, 2017	\$2.71

GAS STORAGE AS OF THE April 6, 2017 Report**Working gas in underground storage, Lower 48 states**

Region	Stocks billion cubic feet (Bcf)				Historical Comparisons			
	03/31/17	03/24/17	net change	implied flow	Year ago (03/31/16)		5-year average (2012-16)	
					Bcf	% change	Bcf	% change
East	268	278	-10	-10	435	-38.4	332	19.3
Midwest	479	486	-7	-7	549	-12.8	372	28.8
Mountain	142	141	1	1	149	-4.7	121	17.4
Pacific	216	212	4	4	265	-18.5	229	-5.7
South Central	946	932	14	14	1,081	-12.5	731	29.4
Salt	295	289	6	6	322	-8.4	190	55.3
Nonsalt	651	644	7	7	759	-14.2	541	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>-17.2</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>14.8</b>

**Summary**

Working gas in storage was 2,051 Bcf as of Friday, March 31, 2017, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 2 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 427 Bcf less than last year at this time and 265 Bcf above the five-year average of 1,786 Bcf. At 2,051 Bcf, total working gas is within the five-year historical range..

**EIA FORECAST APRIL 1, 2017:****Natural Gas**

- U.S. dry natural gas production is forecast to average 75.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2017, a 1.3 Bcf/d increase from the 2016 level. This increase reverses a 2016 production decline, which was the first decline since 2005. Natural gas production in 2018 is forecast to increase by an average of 4.1 Bcf/d from the 2017 level.

(Continued to page 8)



**OBITUARIES**



**Theresa Marie Righter**, 60, of Vincent, died Thursday afternoon, March 30, 2017 in Marietta. Born in Parkersburg, WV on July 4, 1956, she was the daughter of Bert and Telma Anderson.

She had been a homemaker and an administrative assistant for Anderson Drilling in Fleming. She was a member of Lighthouse Baptist Church

and the Ohio Valley Desk and Derrick Club. Theresa enjoyed time spent with her family, as well as cooking, baking and vacationing in Myrtle Beach.

Survivors include her parents, of Vincent; her husband Daniel B. Righter, whom she married September 8, 1979; three daughters, Kristen First (Matthew) of Marietta, Kayla Righter (Matt Adams) of Vincent, and Kacey Smith (Brent) of Washington, WV; her unborn granddaughter, Baby Girl Smith; and one brother, Tim Anderson (Carol) of Vincent, and several nieces and nephews.

**2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The SOOGA Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone for the support of our organization. SOOGA has seen a steady growth in membership over the past 10 years, from less than 200 to a sustained 400 at the end of 2016. This growth is thanks to you.

Make your voices heard. SOOGA has dedicated leadership that is connected to the issues at hand and a voice heard by the people who can make a difference.

Now more than ever your SOOGA membership is valuable. By staying involved in your organization you have the ability to stay ahead of the issues that will affect your business.

Make your voice heard, stay involved and encourage your associates to be involved.

*The Board of Directors and officers of SOOGA want to thank you for your continued support.*

**Each time you Sign Up a "New Member" your name gets entered in a drawing for a Henry Golden Boy**

**Donated by: Timco, Inc. and Southeastern Ohio Oil & Gas Association**

**The more you sign up the more chances you have to win!!**

**The Membership Drive ends on 12/31/17.**

**Don't Wait, Start Signing up Those New Members**

**Winner Will Be Announced At the 2018 Spring Membership Meeting. (Board members and employees are excluded)**

**Visit our website at www.sooga.org for Membership Applications.**

**\*\*To receive credit for New Members, your name must be listed as referred by\*\*.**

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## Power plant to be built at Ormet location

Apr 1, 2017 Article from Marietta Times, Reporter Peyton Neely

A new natural gas-fueled power plant is expected to fill the site once occupied by Ormet Corp.

The property, at Hannibal in Monroe County, is now known as the Center Port Terminal and will soon be the site of the Hannibal Port Power Project.

*“Not just people in Monroe County will benefit from this but those needing jobs in Washington County and other surrounding counties in Ohio as well as across the river into West Virginia will benefit as well,”* said Janet Nelson, executive assistant for the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority. *“It creates sort of a snowball effect of job opportunities for our area.”*

Upon completion, the new plant is projected to bring in 20 full-time jobs to the region. During construction, between 300 and 400 jobs are expected to be available.

Ormet employed more than 1,000 employees between the two partnered plants in Hannibal.

The developer for the project, Mark Barry, of Ohio River Partners Shareholder LLC, said the power plant could attract other projects to the area.

*“I expect things to be moving on the river,”* he said.

Ormet ceased operations in October of 2013. Employees were out of the building completely by the end of July 2014. The company announced it would close its plant along the Ohio River after state utility regulators rejected portions of its proposed deal for reducing electricity costs.

In late 2013, Ormet said the decision by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio made it impossible for the company to escape bankruptcy. The plant was once the largest employer in the region.

The site was purchased by Niagara Worldwide, now called Hannibal Development LLC. This company submitted the highest bid for the bankrupt Ormet Corp.’s assets and paid \$25.25 million for the facility in late 2014. Since then, the company has been searching for a developer to work with the site and make it into something useful for the area.

*“We were constantly looking for operators and manufacturers in the gas and oil industry to fill that space,”* said Eric Spirtas, owner/president of Hannibal Development LLC. *“Since Hannibal Development LLC has owned the property, we wanted to find a way to bring jobs to our area of any kind. Any of the developers we looked at would bring in jobs that require power plants.”*

Monroe County Commissioner Carl Davis said that with

the abundance of natural gas in the area, it’s only appropriate to bring in a new power plant.

*“With the cracker plant going in Belmont County, there’s raw material here for future development,”* he said. *“Twenty jobs isn’t a lot but that’s 20 jobs we didn’t have.”*

The power plant will be a 485-megawatt combine cycle power generation project. It will use local natural gas, sent to the plant by local pipelines, to create the energy, and water from the nearby Ohio River to cool the turbines.

Prior to construction, several environmental permits will be filed, with all required permits set to be completed by September. Construction is predicted to begin later this year. If construction remains on schedule, the plant is expected to be operating by 2020.

*“Looking at the tax base alone we lost a lot of that when the Ormet plant closed,”* said Davis. *“Hopefully this picks it back up.”*

The northwest part of Washington County suffered a loss when the AEP Muskingum River Plant closed in 2014. Nelson said it’s critical for the area to get more gas-powered plants in the area.

*“This area could support up to 10 more gas-powered plants,”* she said. *“They’re plants that run quietly and benefit our area.”*

The planned gas-powered plant in Hannibal is a \$500 million investment.

*“We have two gas-powered plants in Washington County and they’re doing really well,”* said Jim Black, executive director of the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority. *“Although nothing is confirmed, there are plans for more of the plants to make their way into Washington County. It makes a lot of sense to make use of that area because of the local gas supply and the transmission capacity.”*

At a glance

- A new natural gas plant is going into the location of the former Ormet plant.

- Construction is to begin by the end of this year.

- More than 300 construction jobs are expected along with 20 full-time positions upon completion.

- This is a \$500 million investment.

- The plant is projected to be operating by late 2020.

Source: Mark Barry, of Ohio River Partners Shareholder LLC



**SOOGA Legacy Fund**

The oil and gas industry has been a big part of our community for more than 120 years. Our history with the community led us to partner with the Marietta Community Foundation to establish the SOOGA Legacy Fund in 2013. This fund was established to give back to our communities across Ohio and West Virginia and to honor the memory of members who have dedicated their life's work to this industry. To give a tax deductible gift make checks payable to:

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*The SOOGA Board serves as the advisor to the fund.*

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**2017 SOOGA  
Calendar of Events**

**Spring Golf Outing**  
Friday May 26th, 2017  
Oxbow Golf Course  
Belpre, OH

**Spring Clay Shoot**  
Friday June 16, 2017  
Hilltop Sports, LLC  
Whipple, OH

**Fall Golf Outing**  
Friday August 25, 2017  
Lakeside Golf Course  
Beverly, OH

**Annual Fall Trade Show**  
Thursday September 21, 2016  
Washington County Fairgrounds  
Marietta, OH 45750

**Fall Clay Shoot**  
Friday October 20, 2017  
Hilltop Sports, LLC  
Whipple, OH

**Annual Gun Raffle**  
November 1, 2017

**SOOGA Winter Meeting**  
March 8-10, 2017



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(Continued from page 4)

Henry Hub spot prices fell back below \$3.50/MMBtu in January 2017 as temperatures warmed, and declined further during the [second-warmest February on record](#). However, January and February 2016 were also warmer than normal. In 2016, the Henry Hub spot price remained below \$2.00/MMBtu for the latter half of February and all of March 2016. March 2017 prices averaged \$2.87/MMBtu and ended the month at \$3.10, more than a dollar higher than the March 2016 closing price of \$1.93/MMBtu.

- Increasing capacity for natural gas-fired electric generation, growing domestic natural gas consumption, and new export capabilities contribute to the forecast Henry Hub natural gas spot price rising from an average of \$3.43/MMBtu in 2017 to \$3.70/MMBtu in 2018. NYMEX contract values for April 2017 delivery traded during the five-day period ending February 2 suggest that a price range from \$2.42/MMBtu to \$4.38/MMBtu encompasses the market expectation of Henry Hub natural gas prices in April 2017 at the 95% confidence level.

### U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.

Natural gas pipeline deliveries to the Sabine Pass liquefaction terminal averaged 2.1 Bcf/d for the report week, 14% higher than in the previous week. Five vessels (combined LNG-carrying capacity of 17.5 Bcf) departed Sabine Pass last week (Thursday to Wednesday) and one vessel (LNG-carrying capacity of 3.6 Bcf) was loading at the terminal on Wednesday, April 5.

Dominion Cove Point, another U.S. liquefaction facility currently under construction, announced in its latest monthly construction status [report](#) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that the facility is 80% complete. The facility operator, Dominion Cove Point LLC, requested FERC's permission to introduce feed gas and begin commissioning activities on the two auxiliary boilers and related support systems. The facility is expected to become operational by the end of 2017.

### PIPELINE REPORT:

New updates coming in July, 2017

### UTICA WELL PRODUCTION

During the fourth quarter of 2016, Ohio's horizontal shale wells produced 3,577,553 barrels of oil and 364,307,926 Mcf (364 billion cubic feet) of natural gas. Natural gas production from the fourth quarter of 2016 showed an increase over the third quarter of 2016.

Horizontal shale well operators are required to submit production data by the 45th day following the close of each calendar quarter. Operators submit the amount of oil, natural gas and brine that each well produces, as well as the number of days that the well was in production.

### Fourth Quarter – 2016 – Utica Production Volumes:

2016 QUARTER 3	2016 QUARTER 4	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Barrels of Oil 3,954,095	3,357,553	(15.09%)
MCF Nat. Gas 360,681,356	364,307,926	1%

As of April 1, 2017, there have been 2,452 Utica shale permits issued in 23 counties in Ohio to 29 companies, and 1950 of them have been developed.

There are currently 1,562 Utica shale wells in production, with 20 rigs running.



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## Forest mineral rights bids top \$5M

Article from Marietta Times 4/4/17

Twenty parcels covering 1,147.1 acres of Wayne National Forest in Monroe County are expected to garner more than \$5 million in new mineral leases for the federal Bureau of Land Management, and downstream, additional monies for county schools, roads and first responders.

Bids closed last week and bidders have until the end of next week to pay in full their dues ranging from \$5,177.50 to \$802,262.50 per parcel.

*“Based on past data we knew this sale was going to be at least \$2 million,”* said Jackie Stewart, state director for Energy In Depth. *“But what we found with the Wayne lease sales is our projections were conservative and our estimate was blown out of the water... and that’s great news for taxpayers and private mineral owners in Monroe County but especially for the schools who will receive not only money off the top of the sale but also later in the form of payment in lieu of taxes the forest provides.”*

The acreage in the county was so coveted that one bid went for more than \$10,000 per acre last week. The total due to BLM next week is \$5,119,501.50.

Out of 11 registered bidders, Eclipse Resources, Flat Rock Development and a single bidder, Philip White out of New Mexico, won all 20 parcels.

*“Eclipse really was the big winner of both this and the December sale,”* said Mike Chadsey, director of public relations for the Ohio Oil and Gas Association. *“They picked up 17 of the 20 parcels this round. But even from them we’re not hearing anything about acquiring drilling permits just yet, and there’s not a rush to right now without the pipeline infrastructure complete to transport or store the gas.”*

But with the leases in the hands of the winning bids for the next 10 years, development of horizontal wells to tap into the Shale Crescent are simply a game of which will come first—the chicken or the egg.

With natural gas prices so low nationally, gas companies are hesitant to gather the data to convince pipelayers to install the infrastructure, while pipelayers are hesitant to invest in the miles of pipe without a promise of payment for use by gas companies.

*“The race right now lies in are there going to be pipelines taking this gas out of the area to a hub to supply markets or are they going to feed further manufactur-*

*ing development here in the valley?”* said Chadsey. *“The good news is there’s enough natural gas beneath us for both and we’re already starting to see the signs of that growth with the Energy Transfer Rover Pipeline project which is expected to come online by the end of the year.”*

The ET Rover is currently under construction from West Virginia and Pennsylvania through Ohio and up into Michigan and Canada where a distribution hub will eventually transfer that natural gas out to markets like Chicago and other large markets in North America, Chadsey said.

For Washington, Morgan, Monroe and Noble counties, 64,667 acres of land are federally owned as part of the Wayne National Forest.

*“We will probably not see pad development on the land of the Wayne though,”* said Chadsey. *“With the patchwork that the forest is from one acre to multiple there’s the room to have the pads on private land and just reach out beneath the forest without disturbing hiking, biking and camping.”*

Lynn Cady, of Marietta, head of the Marietta chapter of Keep Wayne Wild, a statewide organization against the mineral development of the forest, said while she understands this latest auction went through, the organization is still fighting to prevent actual drilling.

*“Even if there’s no above ground disturbance of actual forest land there are still concerns of water contamination, fires and damage to the roads if this drilling happens even beside forest land,”* said Cady. *“We’re continuing to pressure the (BLM eastern states office) to stop future auctions and ultimately to not award any drilling permits in or near the Wayne or our rivers.”*

Over the weekend, a 3.0 magnitude earthquake was detected at approximately 8 a.m. on Sunday. Review of the seismic data placed the event in Monroe County in proximity to ongoing oil and gas well completion operations. Those activities were halted within an hour of the seismic occurrence, according to information from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. It is ODNR protocol to stop operations. Ohio has some of the most comprehensive seismic monitoring operations and requirements in the country, which helped detect this otherwise unfelt event, and ODNR is investigating potential sources.

Continued to page 17

## Emergency Preparedness in the Oil Field

No matter what industry you work in, there is one thing that is universally true. No matter how well trained workers may be, and no matter how many safety features are installed in workplaces, injuries will eventually occur, from simple cuts to potentially serious and life threatening. Of course, no one expects serious injuries to occur, but odds are they will happen at some point. That is why being prepared for emergencies is vital to ensuring a safe work environment, and Oil Fields are no exception. Oil Rigs present a number of hazards to the workers who build and operate them. The combination of heavy machinery, high pressure work environments, and long work shifts all present hazards that could lead to a worker being injured. Compounding this is the sometimes remote location of these sites, making it harder for medical or fire services to quickly respond when an emergency situation arises, making having an appropriate first response plan vital in protecting the lives of your workers.

The first thing to do is to always perform a safety assessment of each site to identify what hazards are present, but this doesn't stop at the equipment. Depending on the area, workers may face high temperatures, unstable ground, or other environmental hazards that could cause serious injury. Work sites in rural and wilderness areas may feature dangers from the local wildlife, such as venomous snakes and insects, as well as larger animals like bears or wolves. Once these assessments are complete, plans can then be made to address the hazards found.

For example, in areas where animal bites could occur, then first aid kits need to be stocked with items for treating such injuries. First aid kits also need to be stocked with supplies for treating common injuries such as cuts. Once you have built your kit, you need to remember to maintain it and restock it regularly. As part of this, you will need to discard expired goods such as ointments or creams, and replace them with fresh materials. However, even the best first aid kit is meaningless without an action plan for responding to emergencies, and training for your workers to prepare them to respond to these situations. Emergency Action Plans will not only provide steps on how to respond to treating an accident, but must also provide information for contacting emergency services should advanced treatment be necessary.

Make no mistake, there can never be a replacement for maintaining proper safety policies to ensure that workers are performing their tasks safely. But when an emergency does occur, then being prepared and having a comprehensive plan to address it could be what saves a worker's life.

Article provided by: Safety Resources Company of Ohio



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**GAS PRICING 2017****MARCH 2017**

NYMEX Settlement: \$2.627  
 Inside FERC/DTI: \$2.060 (Basis: -\$0.567)  
 Inside FERC/TCO: \$2.380 (Basis: -\$0.247)  
 NYMEX 3-day Average: \$2.612

**APRIL 2017**

NYMEX Settlement: \$3.1750  
 Inside FERC/DTI: \$2.710 (Basis: -\$0.465)  
 Inside FERC/TCO: \$2.990 (Basis: -\$0.185)  
 NYMEX 3-day Average: \$3.052

**OIL PRICING 2017****ERGON OIL PURCHASING WEST VIRGINIA MONTHLY AVERAGE**

February Ohio Tier 1: \$52.5479  
 February Ohio Tier 2: \$49.5479  
 February Ohio Tier 3: \$47.5479  
 February West Virginia Tier 1: \$52.5479  
 February West Virginia Tier 2: \$49.5479  
 February West Virginia Tier 3: \$47.5479  
 February Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$37.5479  
 February Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$52.5479  
 February Marcellus/Utica Light: \$47.0479

March Ohio Tier 1: \$48.6658  
 March Ohio Tier 2: \$45.6658  
 March Ohio Tier 3: \$43.6658

March West Virginia Tier 1: \$48.6658  
 March West Virginia Tier 2: \$45.6658  
 March West Virginia Tier 3: \$43.6658  
 March Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$33.6658  
 March Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$48.6658  
 March Marcellus/Utica Light: \$43.1658

**Tier 1** - 150 + net barrels of crude oil  
 No more than 2% BS&W (if the BS&W is over 2% it will then qualify for Tier 2 pricing)

**Tier 2** - 60-149.99 net barrels of crude oil  
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**Tier 3** - 30-59.99 net barrels of crude oil

Please contact Ergon at 1-800-278-3364 for clarification on split load pricing.

The prices as posted are based upon computation of volume by using tank tables, or as measured by a deduction for all BS&W and correction for temperature deductions or allowances shall be made on the oil purchased shall be free of contamination and/or alteration by foreign substances or chemicals not associated with virgin crude oil. These include but are not restricted to, oxygenated and/or chlorinated compounds.

The Marcellus/Utica Shale produced crude oil will be purchased based on the monthly average for the following postings:

38.0-49.9 API Gravity—**Marcellus/Utica Medium** crude oil

50.0-59.9 API Gravity—**Marcellus/Utica Light** crude oil

60.0+ API Gravity—**Marcellus/Utica Condensate** (formerly posted as Appalachian Sweet Light-ALS).

Other parameters will be evaluated on a farm by farm basis.

You can now find EOP WVA Crude oil Price Bulletin on the internet at:  
[www.ergon.com](http://www.ergon.com)

**OIL PRICING 2016/2017****AMERICAN REFINING GROUP AVERAGE**

2/11 to 2/20 Group 1 OH: \$52.39  
 Group 2 OH: \$49.39  
 Group 3 OH: \$47.39  
 2/21 to 2/28 Group 1 OH: \$53.02  
 Group 2 OH: \$50.02  
 Group 3 OH: \$48.02  
 3/1 to 3/10 Group 1 OH: \$51.08  
 Group 2 OH: \$48.08  
 Group 3 OH: \$46.08  
 3/11 to 3/20 Group 1 OH: \$47.53  
 Group 2 OH: \$44.53  
 Group 3 OH: \$42.53  
 3/21 to 3/31 Group 1 OH: \$47.50  
 Group 2 OH: \$44.50  
 Group 3 OH: \$42.50  
 4/1 to 4/10 Group 1 OH: \$50.51  
 Group 2 OH: \$47.51  
 Group 3 OH: \$45.51

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**Group 3 (OH/PA/NY)** - 30-59.9 net barrels from a single location

For questions relating to ARG Group Pricing or Utica / Marcellus Shale pricing, please contact:

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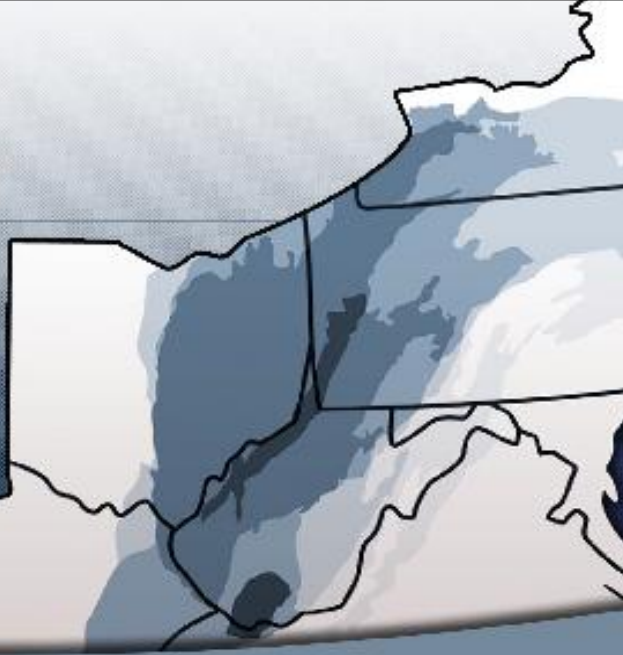
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## West Virginia Update

By: Bob Matthey

The WV Legislatue passed HB2811 and the Governor signed the bill making it law. This bill now exempts Level 2 tanks or tanks of 10,000 gallon or less in the zone of peripheral concern from the burdensome regulations by the AST Act.

The following requirements are still in place:

1. A producer must still register his tanks with the AST people.
2. Tanks still are required to have signage.
3. You may have to notify a water utility if you are upstream of one.
4. No inspections, no catholic protection, and no closure rules.

This is a step in the right direction.

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Continued from page 11

With protected forest lands being exempt from regular property taxes, entities that receive public funds like school districts, law enforcement, fire departments, townships and counties lose out on property taxes.

Stewart said monies both from the initial sale of the mineral rights and later in the form of mineral payments should create a windfall for local communities.

Stewart said monies both from the initial sale of the mineral rights and later in the form of mineral payments should create a windfall for local communities.

*“Monroe County should already be seeing some of the benefits of these mineral leases,” said Stewart. “They’ve got some good acreage, now the companies are just waiting on pipeline infrastructure and then the issue of storage for natural gas.”*

The building of infrastructure like water, electric and gas pipelines also increases the property values of the county, increasing downstream utility taxes going to the school systems.

In past years the Wayne has provided payment in lieu of taxes, mineral payments and monies for roads, to local school districts, townships and county commissioners as compensation for private property taxes foregone due to public ownership. From 2003 to 2015 that payment in total has ranged from \$195,154 per year to \$435,199 per year.

In 2015 Monroe County, with 24,660 national forest acres, received \$64,573. That same year Morgan County, with 3,369 national forest acres, received \$7,067, Noble County, with 716 national forest acres, received \$1,561, and Washington County, with 39,291 national forest acres, received \$145,072.

**By the numbers**

- Parcels posted in original sale notice: 21.
- Acres posted in original sale notice: 1,186.06.
- Parcels protested: 20.
- Acres protested: 1,147.10.
- Protests received on sale: 52.
- Parcels removed as a result of protests: 0.
- Parcels removed for other reasons: 1.
- Parcels offered day of sale: 20.
- Acres offered day of sale: 1,147.10.
- Bidders: 11.
- Sum of highest bids: \$5,114,569.
- Bid parcel closing price: \$801,981.
- Highest bid per acre: \$10,081.65.

Source: Bureau of Land Management Eastern States Office: Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale Results Summary for the Wayne National Forest March 23.

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## Ethane To Be Stored Underground In Monroe County Underground Site Is Near Ohio River

Article From Wheeling Intelligencer, February 5, 2017 Staff Writer Casey Junkins

CLARINGTON –One of the main obstacles industry leaders saw for the PTT Global Chemical ethane cracker will no longer be a factor because as much as 168 million gallons of natural gas liquids will be stored in underground salt caverns located about 12 miles south of the planned petrochemical plant site along the Ohio River.

According to David Hooker, president of Denver-based Energy Storage Ventures, the Monroe County underground storage facility will be the first such development “*in the heart of the Marcellus/Utica region.*” Testing and permitting are ongoing for the project he hopes to open on former coal mine property near Clarington before the end of 2018.

“*We are completing our due diligence. We have completed the design work. We drilled a test well,*” Hooker said. “*We believe we have more than enough salt for the type of caverns we are looking for.*”

Although the facility will be positioned in Ohio, its name will be Mountaineer NGL Storage. It will be within sight of Marshall County’s Blue Racer Midstream Natrium natural gas processing plant, located on the West Virginia side of the river.

“*We expect to connect to the Blue Racer infrastructure,*” Hooker said. “*The ethane will come in and go out by pipe.*”

When the Natrium plant initially opened, officials said they would keep propane and butane in above-ground tanks, but could not do this with ethane because of the material’s volatility.

During the Marcellus-Utica Midstream Conference in Pittsburgh last week, Blue Racer Senior Vice President Marc Halbritter said having the ethane storage caverns just across the river from Natrium will be an advantage for companies such as his. He also gave a strong endorsement for the PTT project.

“*It would be a great help to have a local outlet for ethane,*” Halbritter said of the PTT project.

Other midstream companies deriving ethane in the Marcellus and Utica region include Williams Energy and the MarkWest division of MPLX. Greg S. Floerke, executive vice president and chief commercial officer for MarkWest, is among those who questioned the viability of an ethane cracker in the region, due to the lack of underground storage capacity.

Destinations for Marcellus and Utica ethane now include crackers in Mont Belvieu, Texas and Sarnia, Canada, as the material flows out of the area on one of multiple pipelines.

“*The one thing we don’t have that Mont Belvieu and Sarnia have is storage,*” Floerke said in 2015, explaining an ethane cracker likely would need to ensure a steady supply of fuel in the event a pipeline carrying ethane to the plant would fail.

Because of ethane’s volatility, Floerke said it is less common to see the product stored in above-ground tanks in comparison to propane and butane. He said a company can build tanks to hold ethane, but at significant cost, as he said it is more common for ethane to be stored underground.

Hooker said once Royal Dutch Shell confirmed it would build its ethane cracker at Monaca, Pa., his developers changed their focus. Ethane, along with propane, butane and pentane, is one of the liquid forms of natural gas prevalent in the Marcellus and Utica shale.

“*We initially designed it around propane and butane storage,*” he said. “*The good news is that we can still do propane and butane.*”

Officials with Thailand-based PTT are due to announce their final decision on whether to build the massive multi-billion-dollar ethane cracker at Dilles Bottom in Belmont County by the end of March. If the firm proceeds with the giant plant, it will take a few years to build.

(Continued on page 23)



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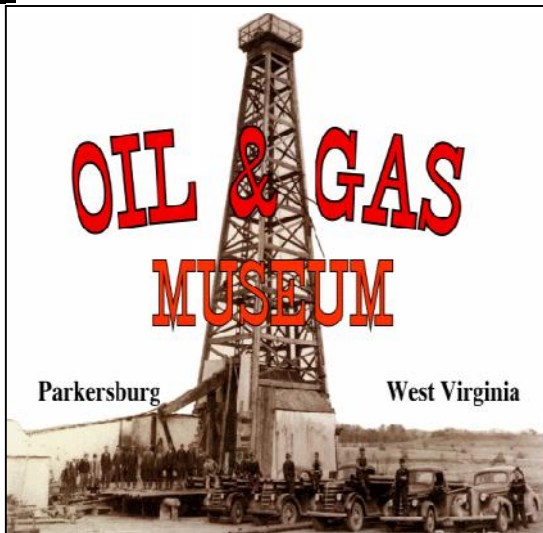
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## The Rover Pipeline

### Natural gas from Southeast Ohio will be headed hundreds of miles away

Marietta Times 4/27/17

SUMMERFIELD-Over the rolling hills and farmlands stretching across the Monroe and Noble county line, cattle farms and turkey hunters are sharing space with a new pipeline ultimately headed to Michigan and then on to Canada.

The Rover pipeline, owned by Energy Transfer Partners, is a new interstate natural gas pipeline system that will transport 3.25 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas through approximately 713 miles of 24-inch, 30-inch, 36-inch and 42-inch diameter underground pipeline through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Michigan.



*“Rover has made a commitment to utilize 100 percent labor unions for the construction of the pipeline, and it is our priority to have as many as possible from local union halls when possible,”* said Alexis Daniel, public relations and communication specialist for Energy Transfer Partners. *“The project is estimated at approximately \$4.2 billion.”*

The principal purpose of the pipeline is to serve U.S. consumers. Currently, all the gas transported on Rover will be delivered into the pipeline grid in Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia via eight delivery points. Once delivered into the pipeline grid, the gas will be transported to domestic markets for consumption by commercial, residential or manufacturing consumers. Only the portion of gas that cannot be consumed in the United States is expected to be transported to Canada where it will be traded on the open market, for consumption either back in the United States, into large-demand markets such as New York or New Jersey or to customers in Canada.

*“As of last week’s report to (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), we have about 7,570 (people working) on all spreads of construction for the project,”* said Daniel.

Typical pipeline construction sequence begins first with months of survey and staking of the route the pipeline will take with respect to right-of-way, environmental, developmental and local concerns. Once the specific location is selected the route is then marked with stakes.

Then front-end clearance begins weather-permitting. Grading and removal of trees occurs during this phase to make way for the coming pipe.

As of Monday much of the work just south of Ohio 78 between Summerfield and Lewisville was between this stage and the next: right-of way grading. North of the state route front-end clearance and right of way grading was also underway Monday.

Following right-of-way grading, stringing, bending and initial welding begins.

Then trenching, coating and inspection for environmental protection takes place before the pipes are laid in the trench and backfilled over top.

Finally, before the line is tied into the gas grid, testing for pressure and structural integrity takes place and then clean-up and topsoil restoration begins.

Reaction to the pipeline work has been mixed, with local farmers not thrilled by the disruption to their farms but understanding the general reasoning behind the line. Meanwhile, local businesses are welcoming an increase in revenue.

(Continued to page 27)



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(Continued from page 18)

“It would be a few years before PTT would need us,” Hooker said, adding he is “very aware” of the PTT proposal.

Hooker said the liquids will be stored in the Salina salt formation at a depth approximately 6,500 feet — more than one mile — beneath the surface.

“We are looking at four caverns initially,” Hooker said of the project’s first phase, while adding there would likely eventually be as many as eight caverns. Each cavern could hold up to 500,000 barrels of liquids.

There are 42 gallons in a barrel, so that equates to 21 million gallons per cavern. If the company meets its goal of eight caverns, as many as 168 million gallons of ethane, propane and butane would be in storage.

“They won’t take up much more than an acre underground,” he said. “We would like to have the first phase in service by 2018.”

When asked if the facility was being built specifically to support the PTT project, Hooker said, “We’ve had conversations with some of the prospective ethane users.”

In Ohio, both the state Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources hold some regulatory authority over the storage endeavor.

“We are aware of this project and have received an application for a 401 water quality certification for it. We have not taken an action on the application,” Ohio EPA spokeswoman Heidi Griesmer said.

“Ohio Department of Natural Resources is aware of the proposed development by Mountaineer NGL Storage, and has been in contact with the company as they work to move forward with the project. No permits have been issued at this time,” ODNR spokesman Matt Eiselstein added.

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*“I see the point in the line but don’t understand why they can’t be more considerate of farmers they’re sharing the land with,”* said Duane Weisend, 60, of Summerfield, who owns several acres of farmland on both sides of where the pipeline is currently being laid. *“They pulled out a post of one of my fences when they laid down a water line out to where they’re working and that let out cattle. Yesterday I was out helping another farm round up their cattle too.”*

At the Lewisville Carry-Out store associate Sunessa Tollie said she has had nothing but good experiences with the visiting crews.

*“This morning we had a line wrapped in and around each aisle in the store,”* she said. *“We’re getting to the point where we’re even opening earlier on Saturdays and Sundays to meet their needs. They come in every morning to get a breakfast sandwich and lunch sandwich and their drinks before loading out for the day.”*

But even off-duty Tollie said her experience has been pleasant.

*“I was in a store in Woodsfield and I could tell by their company shirts who they were. One was a gentleman and held the door and they all say ‘yes ma’am’ and ‘no ma’am’ and are polite and patient as we get through their orders as quickly as we can,”* she said.

By the numbers

Rover Pipeline is a \$4.2 billion investment creating up to 10,000 construction jobs.

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